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## THE SOVIETS AND THE SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE

- 6. The initial TASS report on Secretary Kissinger's press conference today is extremely positive, and gives no hint of US concern about Soviet intentions. TASS stresses instead the Secretary's remarks regarding joint Soviet-US actions to resolve the crisis, and quotes the Secretary regarding the "most promising" possibilities for establishing peace in the Middle East, and US willingness to work with the USSR toward this end.
- 7. TASS reports that the US opposed sending US and Soviet peace-keeping forces to the Middle East, but points out that the US supports the idea of a UN force that does not include the permanent members of the Security Council, and is willing to render it every assistance. TASS also reports the Secretary's remarks regarding US willingness to act in the spirit of the agreements recently concluded in Moscow.

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### UNITED NATIONS

- 9. Secretary-General Waldheim announced this evening that he is transferring the more than 900 men of the Austrian, Swedish, and Finnish contingents of the UN force on Cyprus to the Middle East as an "interim measure." He also named Finnish Major General Sillasvuo, the current chief of staff of UNTSO, as acting commander of the new UN emergency force (UNEF). The present ceiling of UNTSO forces in the Middle East is 221.
- 10. The Secretary-General's action should ease Soviet concerns about the viability of the cease-fire and further reduce the threat of any unilateral Soviet action. The Communists, however, clearly expect to play a more active role in UN peace-keeping activities than they have heretofore. During the Security Council debate this afternoon, Soviet Ambassador Malik noted that many of the countries participating in UNTSO belong to NATO and suggested that the new force include troops from Communist and non-aligned countries.

## ISRAEL

- 11. Prime Minister Meir reportedly told a journalist, who asked her to comment on reports about Justice Minister Shapiro's call for the resignation of Defense Minister Dayan, that Dayan told her several days ago he would resign if he did not have her full confidence; she had assured him that he had it. She told the reporter that post-mortems on the beginning and the conduct of the war would be discussed by the cabinet at a more suitable time in the future.
- 12. The US Embassy in Tel Aviv comments that in view of the present crisis and the approaching parliamentary elections, Mrs. Meir had little choice but to express full confidence in Dayan or risk

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raising serious questions about the government's overall leadership. The embassy adds that Shapiro has drifted away from his previously close relationship with Mrs. Meir and has talked of leaving the government after the next elections, now rescheduled for 31 December.

# ISRAELI APPRAISAL OF SYRIAN INTENTIONS

- 13. A senior Israeli Foreign Ministry official said today that there is a major struggle going on within the Syrian Government over whether to continue the war. The official believes that Iraqi forces in Syria are demanding that Damascus fight on, and are waiting for the right moment to intervene in the internal Syrian struggle. Other sources have reported Syrian nervousness about the presence of the Iraqi troops.
- 14. The US Embassy in Tel Aviv comments that the Israeli Government is being very cautious in its attitude toward Syria's acceptance of the cease-fire. The embassy thinks the Israelis may avoid officially acknowledging Syrian acceptance until the internal situation in Syria clarifies. Meanwhile, Israel's policy will be: "If they don't shoot, we don't shoot."

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#### WEST GERMANY

German position firm when he asked Foreign Office Secretary Frank today to reconsider its decision banning the resupply of Israel from West German territory. In a sensitive State Department cable, he suggests that only a high-level political demarche will move the Germans.

#### EGYPT

The US Interests Section in Cairo reports today that Egyptians have reacted with confusion and doubt to revelations that the Israelis had seized portions of the west bank of the canal and to news of the second cease-fire. They are asking such questions as "why should a cease-fire be imposed now, when the government has been expressing such confidence?" Egyptian media have been playing down the Israeli presence on the west bank, although stories have begun to circulate about summary courtsmartial of high-ranking Egyptian officers. press criticism of US support for Israel has not increased, the Soviets are now being blamed for not delivering on what many Egyptians believe was a firm Soviet commitment to support Egypt's political goals. The Pakistani representative in Cairo, in an intercepted message, reports much the same thing and observes that the mood of the Egyptian public has become progressively somber and pessimistic as news of the major Israeli gains on the west bank of the Suez Canal slowly become known.

## LEBANON/FEDAYEEN

18. The Government of Lebanon today informed the US Embassy in Beirut that Lebanon has elicited promises from several fedayeen organizations to limit their cross-border raids and shelling of Israeli settlements. A Foreign Ministry official said that

Prime Minister Sulh had once again spoken "firmly and frankly" with fedayeen leaders, and that Fatah, Saiga, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command had agreed to stop their border activities on two conditions: that Israel observe the cease-fire, and that Israel publicly recognize Palestinian rights and their cause. Beirut is requesting similar commitments from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine of Palestine. Should they refuse to cooperate, the government professes to be ready to take the necessary measures to ensure their compliance.

#### NIGERIA/ISRAEL

19. Nigeria today broke off diplomatic relations with Israel. This brings to ten the number of African states to sever relations since the current round of hostilities began on 6 October.

#### IRAN

20. The US Embassy in Tehran has confirmed widespread rumors that Deputy Foreign Minister Mirfendereski was dismissed as a result of a disagreement with the Shah. Mirfendereski reportedly incurred the Shah's wrath by taking it upon himself to sanction a new wave of overflights of Iran by Soviet planes while acting as foreign minister. Early in the war, the Shah granted the Soviet Embassy permission for a one-time overflight of six civilian transports. Before his appointment as deputy foreign minister, Mirfendereski served six years as ambassador to Moscow, which may help explain his susceptibility to the Soviet request.

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